Gauge conversion of Agra Fort-Kasganj Lucknow rail line

1215. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI
SHARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway lines which are under consideration of the Government for gauge conversion in U.P.;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to convert Agrafort-Kasganj-Lucknow metre gauge line into broad gauge during the current financial year 1997-98;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when this gauge conversion is likely to be completed and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Gorakhpur-Gonda loop and Gonda with Anand Nagar-Nautanwa and Gonda-Bahraich MG lines have been included in the Supplementary Budget 1997-98 for conversion into BG.

(b) to (d) Gauge Conversion of Lucknow-Kanpur has already been completed. Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura and Mathura-Achnera are already sanctioned works, the conversion of which would be completed during the 9th plan. Rs.10 crs. have been provided for this work in the current year.

दिल्ली-सहारनपुर रेलवे लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तित करना

1216. **प्रो॰ राम लखन सिंह वर्मा:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार दिल्ली से सहारनपुर रेल लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में परिवर्तित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस योजना पर कार्य कब से प्रारम्भ कर दिया जायेगा; और

(घ) इस योजना पर कितनी धनराशि आवंटित किये जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) दिल्ली से सहारनपुर तक की रेलवे लाइन पहले ही बड़े आमान की लाइन है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Facilities provided to RPF

1217. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IG of RPF stated that RPF is provided with only outdated weaponry, given a raw deal in respect of sanction of other facilities, not granted the use of CCTV in Railway Zones marshalling yards, not provided with proper uniforms, shoes etc.;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is a news item appearing in "News times" (Hyderabad) dated 2.6.97 in this regard.

(b) and (c) The matter is under examination.

Revamping of Railway Protection Force

1218. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of IG of RPF and Chief Security Commissioner of S.E. Railway with regard to the condition of Rialway Protection Force;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what remedial action Government are contemplating to revamp RPF?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a news item appearing

in "News Times" (Hyderabad) dated 2.6.97 in this regard.

(b) and (c) The matter is under examination.

Electrification of Madras-Trivandrum Rail Route

1219. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the electrification of the remaining portion of the Madras-Trivandrum rail route; and

(b) how much money has been allotted for this work during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Madras-Trivandrum route consist of following sections:

(i) Madras-Erode
(ii) Erode-Ernakulam
(iii) Ernakulam-Trivandrum

Madras-Erode section was electrified in March, 92. The electrification work has been taken up on Erode-Ernakulam section out of which sub-section Erode to Shoranur has already been completed. Work beyond Shoranur is in progress. There is, at present, no proposal to electrify the remaining portion of the Madras-Trivandrum route i.e. Ernakulam-Trivandrum section.

(b) During the year 1997-98, Rs. 30 crores have been allotted for the electrification work of Erode-Ernakulam section.

Doubling of railway line from Kollam to Trivandrum

1220. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the work for the doubling of the Railway line from Kollam to Trivandrum has progressed; and

(b) the year-wise break up of the budget allotment for this work including the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Doubling has been completed from Trivandrum to Kochuvalli. The section from Kochuvalli to Kazakuttam will be commissioned in the current financial year. Work on the rest of the line has just been taken up after the land was made available by the State Govt. last month and would be completed by December, 99 subject to availability of resources.

(b) *Year*	*Outlay in thousands of Rs.*
90-91	1,50,000
91-92	5,50,000
92-93	1
93-94	1
94-95	50,000
95-96	1,50,000
96-97	2,14,706
97-98	1,50,000

Emergency Quota Seats for VIPs

1221. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that seats from VIP emergency quota were being sold through just prior to the departure of train by charging Rs.400 to Rs.500 extra per ticket; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop such practices?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. Moreover, the emergency quota earmarked for meeting urgent travel requirement of High Official Requisition holders, Minister, MPs and VIPs and other emergent demands from various quarters is released sufficiently in advance before the scheduled departure of the train and unutilised quota gets released to the passengers on RAC/ waiting lists automatically at the time of preparation of charts.

(b) Does not arise.